



## BELIEVERS EASTERN CHURCH

Office of the Metropolitan, Synod Secretariat, St. Thomas Community, Thiruvalla, Kerala, India.

### SHEPHERD'S LETTER

March/April 2024

Blessings and greetings to all the Archbishops and Bishops, Priests and Deacon Fathers, Evangelists and Order of Sisters, and all the Faithful of the Believers Eastern Church worldwide, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

#### **My beloved in Christ,**

Christ is risen; Truly He is risen!

As a church, we have finished the season of Great Lent and the Feast of Easter, and I hope this has been a wonderful experience for all of us to grow closer in our walk with Christ. May the spirit of repentance and the joy of proclaiming the resurrection of Christ always be part of our lives!

Please remember that during our time on earth, we are embarking on a journey to become more like Christ. It is through the church that we find a sacramental life, and this becomes our way of life as we remain disciplined and faithful in the observance of the church calendar and the faith and holy traditions (practices) of the church.

Our homes are called 'little churches, because it is at home that our faith is truly practiced and passed on to the next generation. But how do we pass on this living faith to our children, to our grandchildren, and to our neighbours? Let me tell you about a fantastic way to do this. Recently, our Church has published a small booklet - the 'Family Prayer Liturgy.' It tells us practically what to pray and how to pray together as a family. It also gives us practical guidelines for setting up the prayer altar. This is being translated and printed in all languages, and your priest will help you get a copy of this for all of you. As you practice praying in the pattern shown to us by the church, God will not only answer your prayers, but will also make your family a blessing to other families in your neighbourhood.

Another great opportunity to pass on faith to the next generation, is the 'Kids Day Camp' that is being organised by our church worldwide. I'm sure you may have received all the guidelines needed for it from your Diocese. I urge you all, to create a memorable and fun experience for the children of your parish. Be sure to invite other children too, because these lessons will help our children develop positive values while they are young.

Young people are the future of our church and our country. It's only by guiding our youths to grow up with a strong foundation in faith and in the ways of God, they remain loyal to the church, represent Christ and His church where they are, and become willing to dedicate their lives to serve the holy Church. And I have some exciting news for them! The Believers Youth Department of our church is planning to organise a large Youth Conference on October 9 -13, 2024 at the Holy Synod Headquarters. With representatives from our churches all over the world, this will be an amazing time of fellowship, encouragement, and renewal in their lives. Please pray for this regularly, and pray for the youth who are going to be part of this gathering.

My beloved Faithful, I am so proud of all of you for your faithfulness to the church and for your thirst to become like Christ our Lord. The greatest desire I have for all of us is that we are known by our love for others.

May the ✠ Holy Trinity in His mercy continue to guide us.

Your Father in Christ,



Athanasius Yohan I Metropolitan

**Date** : 22 April 2024

**Place** : Holy Synod

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**P.S:** Please make sure this is translated into all regional languages and read in all parishes for the encouragement of the faithful.